

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV NZ

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF SNAP ELECTION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WELLINGTON'S DOMINION NEWSPAPER CARRIED REPORT SEPT 27 INDICATING GOVERNMENT MIGHT CALL SNAP ELECTION. POLITICAL OBSERVERS COMMENTING ON REPORT EARLY TODAY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GOOD MOVE BUT GAVE LOW RATING TO PROBABILITY OF ELECTION BEING CALLED. WITH ARRAIGNING LATE THIS MORNING OF LEFT WING LABOUR PARTY STALWART WILLISM SUTCH ON CHARGE OF VILATING OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT PROBABILITIES OF ELECTION BEING CALLED DROPPED TO INFINITELY CLOSE TO ZERO. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS STORY RESULTED FROM PRIME MINISTER ROWLING REFUSAL, IN SEPTEMBER 26 PRESS CONFERENCE, TO FLATLY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT CALL SNAP ELECTION. WITH WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS. CONSIDERED ROWLING MIGHT WANT TO GO TO THE PEOPLE AS
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SOON AS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL NOVEMBER 1975

WHEN ECONOMY COULD BE IN MUCH MORE SERIOUS STRAITS IN

ADDITION, ROWLING ENJOYING SOMETHING OF A HONEYMOON WITH
THE ELECTORATE AND KIRK'S PRESTIGE STILL COVERS
LABOUR PARTY.

3. SEVERAL FACTORS WORKED AGAINST CALLING AN ELECTION
INCLUDING NEW ZEALAND TRADITION OF HOLDING ELECTIONS
TRIENNIALLY UNLESS THERE IS OVERWHELMING REASON TO DO
OTHERWISE. SNAP ELECTION COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN
INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF INSECURITY ON PART OF GOVERNMENT
WHICH, HAVING 23 SEAT MAJORITY, SHOULD BE VERY SECURE.
ALSO, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT LABOUR WOULD HAVE LOST SOME
MARGINAL SEATS.

4. SUTCH CASE SHOULD PUT AN END TO ALL SPECULATION.
DR. SUTCH HAS BEEN LONG-TIME MEMBER OF LABOUR PARTY
CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH LEFT-WING. NATINAL PARTYWILL BE ABLE TO USE
ARREST, EVEN NEXT YEAR, AS VOTE-GETTING EXAMPLE OF
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MAKE UP LABOUR PARTY.

5. COMMENT- THE POSSIBILTIIY OF A SNAP ELECTION,
GENERALLY CONSIDERED A SHREWDPOLITIAL MOVE THIS MORNING,
SEEMS NOW MORE IN THE REALM OF FANTASY. LABOUR'S FORTUNE'S ALREADY
KNOCKED ABOUT BY ECONOMIC FACTORS OVER WHICH IT HAS LIMITED
CONTROL AND THE DEATH OF NORMAN KIRK, HAVE SUFFERED ANOTHER
SERIOUS REVERSE WITH THE ARREST OF DR. SUTCH.
KILLGORE

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